[P 49(A)] SA19 Talamanca SA19

Changuena
Cabécar
Bribri

179 726 the medicine men of Ujarrás went to Talamanca to look for the best medicine man there.[183] He was known by the name of "He who taught medicine men." The medicine man converted himself into a combination of a jaguar-rat. The warriors, who accompanied him, brought arrows and joined those of Ujarrás. The great medicine man who appeared as a rat had his companions from Talamanca carry him in a cage over the cordiliera. The people from Ujarrás met him and all went well armed, including females.

They met the Changuinas who had joined with the inhabitants of Cabagra (Bribri) on the other side of Buenos Aires[184] and had a terrific battle. The medicine man from Cabécar was more powerful than the one from Changuina, however, and the Cabécares kept winning.

● [712] The wounded Changuinas and Cabagras (Bribri) went into a large underground house made of cut stone which served as a fort. The enemy followed them and made them march ahead while another encounter with the Changuinas and Cabagras was prepared.

The medicine man from Talamanca went ahead of everyone and his enemies allowed him to sit down. He sat on a wooden bench which immediately broke, so he sat on a stone one which did the same. The medicine man of the Changuinas seeing this grew afraid. He withdrew into the underground fortress. There was a saw which the Changuinas and Cabagras used to cut off heads of the people from Talamanca and Ujarrás. Then they gathered the blood and drank it calling it cacao. The medicine man of the Changuinas wanted to cut off his Talamancan colleague's head but he was not powerful enough.

It was then that the warriors from Talamanca and Ujarrás moved in. Seeing their medicine man seated on sticks and stones instead of a gold seat, such as the Changuinas had, they proceeded with such fury that the enemy became frightened. The Changuina's medicine man grabbed a gold seat in the shape of a horse and through magical means made it fly with him through a door which was in the center of the large building.

[183] Cabécar, in Talamanca, is still the "seat of learning" for medicine men. (*See* Medicine Man.)

[184] I.e., south of Buenos Aires, above where the